

**SCHAUMBURG, IL** – Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08) participated in an education roundtable today at Roosevelt University at which Senator Dick Durbin announced the introduction of a new grant program for college students who choose to study math, science, or a critical foreign language. The program, entitled SMART (Science and Math Access to Retain Talent) and supported by Congresswoman Bean, will distribute more than \$3.75 billion in funding over 5 years to students eligible for Pell Grants and who are in good academic standing.

Bean expressed support for Durbin's SMART grants, emphasizing that in an era of increasing global competitiveness, SMART would create a tremendous incentive for students to study in critical fields. Such emphasis is crucial for the American workforce to be both skilled and varied, and strengthen the long-term growth of the American economy.

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